Date: 1/12/19

Title: Some Taken, Others Left

Theme: When Jesus comes, He will take those who love Him more than the things of this world.

Object: Box with paperclips tied by string to objects people cling to rather than Jesus; other clips with nothing tied to their strings. Magnet representing Jesus coming for us.

Text: Matthew 24:40-42 (NKJV) 40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Did you hear what Jesus told His disciples here?

When He comes back to save us, some will be taken with him, and others will be left.

The ones that are taken get to spend forever with Jesus in our heavenly home.

The ones that are left get destroyed in the lake of fire.

So here’s the question: how many want to be taken when Jesus comes? (We all do!)

Who wants to be left for the lake of fire? (Nobody!)

So before Jesus comes back, we have to make sure we love Him more than anything in this world.

We have to believe the Bible when it tells us what Jesus did to save us.

We have to believe that He died on the cross for our sins, and ask Him to forgive us and save us from our sins.

When we tell Him we’re sorry and ask Him to forgive us, He will, because He died on the cross for our sins.

How many would like to see a demonstration this morning?

OK! I’m going to set up a demonstration of the second coming of Jesus.

So let’s pretend this box is the world and these paperclips on the top of the box are different people.

And this blue square is going to represent Jesus. [Show box labeled JESUS with magnet inside.]

Now the Bible says when Jesus comes again, some are going to be taken and others left.

Let’s see what happens when Jesus comes back to save us.

He’s coming in the clouds with all of His angels; let’s see if any people rise up to meet Him in the air.

Look! People are rising up to meet Jesus in the air. Some are going with Him.

But look! Others are getting left behind. Something’s holding them back.

Why were some taken and others left?

Do you think we can open the box and see what held them back?

[Open front of box to show strings tied to various objects representing sin: money, beer can, cigarette package, worldly music CD, hair brush (pride), doll (worldly friends), toy truck (car or truck)]

These people loved the things of the world more than they loved Jesus.

When we love things more than we love God, that’s a sin.

That’s why they got left behind. They refused to let go of their sins.

The people who were taken with Jesus had their sins forgiven, so nothing could hold them back.

How many want to go with Jesus when He comes back?

Let’s ask Him to forgive us of our sins and love Him more than anything in this world.

The visual aid for this demonstration takes some work. Shown here are some pictures of the box that I put together. The top is made out of a thin piece of wood with holes drilled through it. A string goes through each hole and is tied to a paperclip above the piece of wood. Below the piece of wood and inside the box, some strings have nothing attached, and they will go with Jesus when He comes. To others strings are tied to various objects that may keep people from going with Jesus. In my box were a dollar bill (love of money), beer can (alcohol and drugs), cigarette package (drugs), CD (worldly music), hair brush (pride), toy truck (love of cars or trucks), and a small doll (worldly friends). The front of the box is cardboard and is held in place with tape. It opens downward to reveal the contents and show what is holding some people back. For Jesus I used a good-sized horseshoe magnet covered with blue cardboard labeled JESUS. As the magnet is moved above the top of the box, the paperclips are attracted to Jesus but only those with no worldly attachment rise to go with Him.



